

American

NEWS & VIEWS

A Daily Newsletter from Public Affairs, American Embassy

September 12, 2006

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Transcript: President Bush Says United States Must Take Terrorists' Goals Seriously

Democratic leaders and reformers in Mideast are "hopeful alternative" to terror

President Bush said the United States must take the words of extremists such as al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden seriously and must "act decisively to stop them from achieving their evil aims."

Speaking September 9 in his weekly radio address to the American people, Bush said terrorist leaders have expressed their hope to "establish a totalitarian Islamic empire across the Middle East, which they call a Caliphate, where all would be ruled according to their hateful ideology."

Two days before the fifth anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, the president quoted bin Laden describing the attacks as "a great step towards the unity of Muslims and establishing the righteous [Caliphate]."

He said al-Qaida and its allies "reject any possibility of coexistence with those they call 'infidels,'" even preferring death to sharing the earth with unbelievers.

In the long term, Bush said improved security in the United States and overseas military action are not enough in the struggle against terrorism.

"We must also offer a hopeful alternative to the terrorists' hateful ideology," and take the side of democratic leaders, reformers and those "supporting the voices of tolerance and moderation" across the Middle East.

"By advancing freedom and democracy as the great alternative to repression and radicalism, and by supporting young democracies like Iraq, we are helping to bring a brighter future to this region -- and that will make America and the world more secure," Bush said.

In his radio address, the president also recalled the series of speeches he gave during the week of September 4 to mark the anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks. The speeches concerned "the nature of our enemy, the stakes of the struggle, and the progress we have made during the past five years," he said.

Following is the transcript:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
Saturday, September 9, 2006

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This Monday, our Nation will mark the 5th anniversary of the attacks of September the 11th, 2001. On this solemn occasion, Americans will observe a day of prayer and remembrance, and Laura and I will travel to New York City, Pennsylvania, and the Pentagon to take part in memorial ceremonies. Our Nation honors the memory of every person we lost on that day of terror, and we pray that the Almighty will continue to comfort the families who had so much taken away from them.

On this anniversary, we also remember the brutality of the enemy who struck our country and renew our resolve to defeat this enemy and secure a future of peace and freedom.

So this week I've given a series of speeches about the nature of our enemy, the stakes of the struggle, and the progress we have made during the past five years. On Tuesday in Washington, I described in the terrorists' own words what they believe, what they hope to accomplish, and how they intend to accomplish it. We know what the terrorists intend, because they have told us. They hope to establish a totalitarian Islamic empire across the Middle East, which they call a Caliphate, where all would be ruled according to their hateful ideology.

Osama bin Laden has called the 9/11 attacks, "A great step towards the unity of Muslims and establishing the righteous [Caliphate]." Al Qaeda and its allies reject any possibility of coexistence with those they call "infidels." Hear the words of Osama bin Laden: "Death is better than living on this earth with the unbelievers amongst us." We must take the words of these extremists seriously, and we must act decisively to stop them from achieving their evil aims.

On Wednesday at the White House, I described for the first time a CIA program we established after 9/11 to detain and question key terrorist leaders and operatives, so we can prevent new terrorist attacks. This program has been invaluable to the security of America and its allies, and helped us identify and capture men who our intelligence community believes were key architects of the September the 11th attacks.

Information from terrorists held by the CIA also helped us uncover an al Qaeda cell's efforts to obtain biological weapons, identify individuals sent by al Qaeda to case targets for attacks in the United States, stop the planned strike on a U.S. Marine base in Djibouti, prevent an attack on the U.S. consulate in Karachi, and help break up a plot to

hijack passenger planes and fly them into Heathrow Airport or the Canary Wharf in London.

Information from the terrorists in CIA custody has also played a role in the capture or questioning of nearly every senior al Qaeda member or associate detained by the U.S. and its allies since this program began. Were it not for this program, our intelligence community believes that al Qaeda and its allies would have succeeded in launching another attack against the American homeland. We have largely completed our questioning of these men, and now it is time that they are tried for their crimes.

So this week I announced that the men we believe orchestrated the 9/11 attacks had been transferred to Guantanamo Bay. And I called on Congress to pass legislation creating military commissions to try suspected terrorists for war crimes. As soon as Congress acts to authorize these military commissions, we will prosecute these men and send a clear message to those who kill Americans: No matter how long it takes, we will find you and bring you to justice.

As we bring terrorists to justice, we're acting to secure the homeland. On Thursday in Atlanta, I delivered a progress report on the steps we have taken since 9/11 to protect the American people and win the war on terror. We are safer today because we've acted to address the gaps in security, intelligence, and information sharing that the terrorists exploited in the 9/11 attacks. No one can say for sure that we would have prevented the attacks had these reforms been in place in 2001 -- yet, we can say that terrorists would have found it harder to plan and finance their operations, harder to slip into our country undetected, and harder to board the planes, take control of the cockpits, and succeed in striking their targets.

America still faces determined enemies. And in the long run, defeating these enemies requires more than improved security at home and military action abroad. We must also offer a hopeful alternative to the terrorists' hateful ideology. So America is taking the side of democratic leaders and reformers and supporting the voices of tolerance and moderation across the Middle East. By advancing freedom and democracy as the great alternative to repression and radicalism, and by supporting young democracies like Iraq, we are helping to bring a brighter future to this region -- and that will make America and the world more secure.

The war on terror will be long and difficult, and more tough days lie ahead. Yet, we can have confidence in the final outcome, because we know what America can achieve when our Nation acts with resolve and clear purpose. With vigilance, determination and courage, we will defeat the enemies of freedom, and we will leave behind a more

peaceful world for our children and our grandchildren.

Thank you for listening.

Iraqi Freedom Vital to Defeating Terrorism, Rice Declares

Cheney, Rice cite progress in War on Terror in television interviews

By Howard Cincotta

Washington File Special Correspondent

Washington -- Saddam Hussein represented a nexus between terrorism and violence that would have made progress toward a better future for the Middle East and the world difficult to imagine if he had remained in power, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in a series of television news interviews on September 10, the eve of the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

From the perspective of the past five years, Rice said, the United States and its allies have made major progress in the War on Terror. She cited the capture or killing of many central al Qaeda figures such as Abu Zubaydah and Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who plotted and executed the September 11 attacks; the liberation of more than 50 million people in Afghanistan and Iraq; and the gains in intelligence-gathering and cooperation with nations around the world.

Along with making the United States itself more secure, Rice said on Fox News Sunday, "I think that the record will show that the last five years have been years of reorganizing our international alliances for this long war and reorienting our strategic policy toward one that simply will not accept the conditions in the Middle East and in other places that have allowed extremism to flourish at the expense of moderation."

Appearing in an hour-long interview on NBC's Meet the Press, Vice President Dick Cheney said that, despite an evolving threat from terrorist groups only loosely affiliated with a central al Qaeda organization, the United States and its allies have taken enormous strides in the terrorism fight.

As examples, Cheney cited the terrorist surveillance program, which he said had identified "key communications involving our adversaries," as well as efforts to track and shut down terrorist financing. He also cited the detainee program, "which has allowed us to collect some extraordinarily valuable intelligence from the terrorists we capture."

"It's all been done in a manner that's consistent with the president's authorities, with the Constitution, and with our treaty obligations," Cheney added.

Cheney said the hunt for terrorist leader Osama bin Laden continues to be active and aggressive, and he praised the courage of President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan as a valuable ally in the fight against terrorism. "The fact is, we've captured and killed more al Qaida in Pakistan than anyplace else in the world in the last five years," he said.

Although the Taliban continue to operate in parts of Afghanistan, Rice said on Fox News Sunday, they do not pose any kind of "strategic threat" to the Karzai government. The Taliban may have believed that they could take advantage of the changeover from U.S. to NATO troops in southern Afghanistan. "And they're learning a very brutal lesson as they encounter NATO forces that are destroying them in very large numbers," she said.

IRAQ

In all her interviews, Rice stressed that critics underestimate the threat that Saddam Hussein represented while in power. Saddam Hussein was responsible for more than a million casualties in the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, invaded Kuwait and triggered the Gulf War in 1991, defied U.N. sanctions and the Oil for Food embargo, attacked U.S. planes enforcing no-fly zones, was responsible for as many as 300,000 deaths of his own citizens and remained a state sponsor of terrorism, she said.

Although no weapons of mass destruction were found after Saddam Hussein's overthrow in 2003, subsequent international reports found that he retained the capability and intention of reconstituting his chemical and biological weapons once U.N. sanctions were lifted, according to Rice.

"The idea that somehow this was a peaceful relationship with Saddam Hussein, and if we had just let him be, the world would have been fine, I find is not a very sustainable argument," she said on CBS's Face the Nation.

On CNN's Late Edition, Rice described Iraq under Saddam Hussein as a nexus of threats from "in a post-September 11 world ... in the middle of the world's most volatile region. The world is better off without him," she said.

Vice President Cheney said on NBC's Meet the Press that the U.S. objective in Iraq is to see the establishment of a nation with a viable, representative government elected under its own constitution that is no longer a threat to its neighbors or the United States, nor a safe haven for terrorists, including al Qaida cells. "Those are all things that need to happen, but I think we're well on the way to doing

it," he said, "and we're better off there because of what we've done to date."

Rice noted on CNN's Late Edition that Iraqis continue to work toward a government of national unity where differences are worked out through political institutions, not violence. Iraqi leaders have had success in building a national army that is respected across Iraq, she said, but less success with sectarian divisions within the police force.

"Violent people can always engage in kidnappings or killings or suicide bombings," she said. "What's harder to show is the commitment of most Iraqis to finding a political bargain that will allow them to exist as one country. That's what they want. That's what they're working toward. And we are expressing confidence in them as they seek that future."

IRAN

With regard to Iran, Rice said on CNN's Late Edition that the United States is working to build a coalition of states, "all of whom know that Iranian nuclear activities are unexplained and troubling." Since Iran has not accepted the incentives packages that would have permitted civil nuclear cooperation, she continued, "I'm quite certain ... that the world will respond as the Security Council resolution demands."

Asked about the nature of possible sanctions, Rice dismissed speculation about Iran's oil exports and suggested that the focus might be more toward reducing or cutting off Iran's access to the international financial system.

On Meet the Press, Cheney said that there is little dispute in the international community that Iran is pursuing the capability for production of nuclear weapons. "We have said repeatedly that they should not have a nuclear bomb. and we have also made it abundantly clear that we want to solve the problem diplomatically."

U.S. Remembers September 11 Through Memorial Lights, Freedom Walks

Nation commemorates fifth anniversary of September 11 terrorist attacks

By Howard Cincotta

Washington File Special Correspondent

Washington -- In communities across the United States, Americans are joining together to mark the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, in which more than 3,000 Americans and citizens of other

countries lost their lives.

The September 11 ceremonies are large and small, official and informal, and range from a televised presidential address scheduled for the evening of September 11 to concerts, interfaith religious services and a variety of local observances taking place in all 50 states as well as around the world.

In a proclamation declaring "National Days of Prayer and Remembrance," President Bush said, "As we pray for the families of the victims and reflect upon that defining moment in our history, we are inspired by the knowledge that from the pain and sorrow of that September morning rose a Nation united by our love freedom. We remember that we are a people determined to defend our way of life and to care for our neighbors in need."

For many Americans, remembrance of September 11 may involve a simple walk. In cities and communities throughout the country, thousands of Americans are participating in Freedom Walks to mark the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks. Many of the walks are sponsored by "America Supports You," a nationwide program sponsored by the Department of Defense, which seeks to engage thousands of communities, organizations, companies and individuals in support the armed forces and war against terrorism.

Estimates say more than 120 Freedom Walks are taking place, which began with a group of 30 who gathered on September 7 in White Sands, New Mexico. One of the largest took place in Washington on September 10, when several thousand participants walked two miles from the Washington Monument across the Potomac River to the Pentagon.

But other walks are much smaller and low key, and often involve a quiet, meditative walk around a local school or landmark -- whether the Wetumpka Intermediate School in Alabama; Veteran's Park in Tulsa, Oklahoma; or Sand Fork Elementary School in West Virginia. Some of the Freedom Walks feature music performances, releases of balloons or doves of peace and candle-lighting ceremonies.

But other scheduled September 11 community ceremonies are even more varied, as in this sampling of events taken from a listing compiled by the organization, Families of September 11:

-- More than 100 bicyclists will ride 272 miles from Ground Zero in New York City, site of the Twin Towers, to the Pentagon outside Washington.

-- In California, the Los Angeles Museum of Tolerance will

conduct a memorial service and candle-lighting, following by screening of the film "World Trade Center."

-- A senior center in Baltimore, Maryland, will hold a special commemorative blood drive.

-- Minneapolis, Minnesota, will hold special September 11 memorial concerts along with dozens of other cities and communities.

-- Reno, Nevada, will be the site of Joe McNally's photo display "Faces of Ground Zero," using the world's largest Polaroid camera. His images toured major cities of the world in 2002 and were viewed by more than 2 million people.

-- New September 11 memorials will be unveiled in both Bayonne and Bergen County, New Jersey, a state hard hit by the terrorist attacks.

-- A "United in Memory 9/11 Victim's Memorial Quilt" will be on display in Radnor, Pennsylvania, as well as a "Heart of America Quilt" on the National Mall in Washington.

-- The volunteer organization, One Day's Pay, is campaigning to establish 9/11 as a voluntary day of service, charity and compassion. They are calling on Americans to perform at least one good deed of their own choosing in observance of the fifth anniversary of September 11.

Pillars of light also will pierce the night skies to commemorate September 11. In Washington, the Defense Department will beam a white memorial light skyward from dusk to dawn on September 10 and 11. New York City is beaming its "Tribute in Light" from lower Manhattan, site of the World Trade Center, "in memory of those lost and as a symbol of the spirit of our community."

Among the other ceremonies scheduled for New York City will be a ceremony featured the reading of the names of the victims by friends and family members, along with four moments of silence: one each for the moment the two planes struck the Twin Towers, and one each for the moment that the South Tower fell, followed by the North Tower.

President Bush will address the nation in a televised address on the evening of September 11.

Remembrances are not limited to the annual September 11 observances, of course. In an article, "The Architecture of Loss," Washington Post writer Glenn Frankel describes the many and varied memorials that have appeared or are planned across the nation. They range from the memorial entitled "Reflecting Absence" that will occupy the footprint

of the downed World Trade Center, to a grove of trees in Massachusetts -- one for each victim aboard the two flights that took off from Boston. There is also a kidney-dialysis wing in a hospital in Ethiopia named for Yeneneh Betru, a medical specialist aboard the flight that struck the Pentagon, and an album from New Jersey-born rocker Bruce Springsteen called "The Rising."

On the Internet, according to one count by the Library of Congress, there are more than 2,700 memorial sites.

"There's a certain sense in which no memorial can ever capture the depth of pain the people experience," psychiatrist and writer Robert Jay Lifton said in Frankel's article. Governments and public institutions struggle to deal with divisive issues, Lifton said, and it's left to individuals to pay homage to their loved ones.

Financial Systems Key To Fighting Terrorism, Weapons Proliferators

Treasury official discusses targeted sanctions, financial tracking system

By Peggy B. Hu

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Treasury Department has come to play a vital role in fighting threats to national security, Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Stuart Levey says.

"The authorities that the Treasury has at its disposal are among the rare tools short of military force that we can use to exert leverage when traditional diplomatic options are exhausted," Levey said in remarks before the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research September 8. "They allow the U.S. government to bring concentrated pressure to bear on an otherwise unresponsive threat, demonstrating to the world that failure to abide by internationally accepted norms of behavior bears real consequences."

In particular, Levey said, the Treasury Department's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence marshals the department's policy, enforcement, regulatory and intelligence functions "to sever the lines of financial support to international terrorists, WMD proliferators, narcotics traffickers, and other threats to our national security."

"There are financial networks that underlie all of these threats. Those networks are sources of valuable intelligence; they are also vulnerabilities we can exploit," he said.

TRACKING TERRORIST FINANCING

Levey cited the work done by the Treasury Department's Office of Intelligence and Analysis as a critical component in the fight against terrorists, WMD proliferators and other criminals.

"Money trails don't lie. Financial intelligence is uniquely reliable; it allows us to track threats, as well as to deter and disrupt them," he said.

Another effective tool in the War on Terror is the Terrorist Finance Tracking Program, Levey said.

According to the Under Secretary, this program has been "instrumental in identifying and capturing terrorists and their financiers, and in attacking terrorist-supporting charities." As an example, he cited the use of subpoenaed data provided by the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication in the investigation that culminated in the capture of Hambali, Jemaah Islamiyya's Operations Chief.

COMBATING ABUSE OF CHARITIES

One area where the Treasury Department has made "dramatic progress" is in combating terrorist abuse of charities, according to Levey.

"Prior to 9/11 and even afterwards, terrorists used charities as safe and easy ways to raise and move large sums of money," he said.

According to Levey, the Treasury Department has designated more than 40 charities worldwide as supporters of terrorism, including several U.S.-based ones such as the Holy Land Foundation, the Global Relief Foundation, the Benevolence International Foundation, the Al Haramain Islamic Foundation and the Islamic African/American Relief Agency.

OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

Although combating terrorism financing is a top priority, Levey said, his office has made progress on other fronts as well.

"Using a wide range of tools, we have helped shut down the networks of Colombian and other foreign drug kingpins; targeted Iranian, Syrian, and North Korean companies involved in WMD [weapons of mass destruction] and missile proliferation; financially isolated key Syrian regime members; and struck a deep blow to the North Korean government's illicit financial network," he said.

NORTH KOREA

The Treasury Department has taken two steps specific to North Korea, according to Levey.

Executive Order 13382, for example, authorizes the Treasury and State departments to target "key nodes" of WMD and missile proliferation networks, including their suppliers and financiers. Under this executive order, the United States in October 2005 cited eight North Korean entities for their involvement in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The action freezes any assets the entities may have under U.S. jurisdiction and prohibits all transactions between the designated entities and any U.S. citizen.

Using an authority provided in Section 311 of the USA PATRIOT Act, the Treasury Department also designated the Macau-based Banco Delta Asia (BDA) as an entity of "primary money laundering concern." The designation prohibits U.S. financial institutions from directly or indirectly establishing or administering any correspondent account in the United States for Banco Delta Asia.

"BDA was a willing partner, actively helping North Korean agents conduct surreptitious, multimillion dollar cash deposits and withdrawals without questioning the basis of these transactions," Levey said.

IRAN

With respect to Iran, the Treasury Department also has taken recent steps to combat that country's support for terrorism.

On September 8, the Treasury Department issued an order prohibiting all transactions between the U.S. financial system and Bank Saderat, one of the largest Iranian state-owned banks.

"This bank, which has approximately 3,400 branch offices, is used by the Government of Iran to transfer money to terrorist organizations," including Hezbollah, Hamas, the PFLP-GC and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Levey said.

Hezbollah uses Saderat "to send money to other terrorist organizations as well," he said. "We will no longer allow a bank like Saderat to do business in the American financial system, even indirectly."

The United States has also taken action under Executive Order 13382 against two Iran-based financial companies, Bayt al-Mal and the Yousser Company, which function as Hezbollah's "unofficial treasury," Levey said.

"Institutions considering dealing with these two entities are now on notice as to their true character," he said.

Byliner: Intelligence Director Reviews Changes Since September 11 Attacks

Negroponte says more analysts, intelligence-sharing strengthen counterterrorism

The following piece was originally published in the September 10 edition of the Washington Post and is in the public domain. There are no republication restrictions. The author is the U.S. Director of National Intelligence.

Yes, We Are Better Prepared

By John D. Negroponte

U.S. Director of National Intelligence

Surprise is what intelligence is intended to prevent, but on Sept. 11, 2001, our nation was surprised, and the results were tragic. Now the fifth anniversary of those horrific events raises anew the question: Is our nation's intelligence community better prepared to keep America safe? The answer is yes. U.S. intelligence has made major advances since that Sept. 11.

First and foremost, we better understand, and are aligned to meet, the threat of transnational terror. Although our enemy is constantly changing and remains deadly, our collectors and analysts are carefully tracking the evolution of al-Qaeda and its ideological allies. Today, we have several times as many "all source" analysts -- those who look at all types of intelligence -- focusing on the terrorist threat as were in place on Sept. 11. And as we build up analytic insight and expertise, we also are devoting resources to increased human intelligence collection on targets of primary concern. One important indicator of effectiveness: We and our partners have captured or killed a majority of the al-Qaeda leadership involved in planning and directing the Sept. 11 attacks.

Second, we know that intelligence does little good if those who need it don't see it. Over the past five years we have made great progress in breaking down information "stovepipes." The results are tangible.

Without good intelligence in the right hands, coalition forces in Iraq could not have located and killed Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, whose bloody attacks took so many Iraqi and coalition lives. More recently, British intelligence performed spectacularly in enabling British law enforcement to shut down last month's airline plot. All credit goes to the British,

but U.S. and Pakistani intelligence-sharing -- among U.S. intelligence agencies and with the British -- supported their efforts.

These are concrete examples of how we have changed and are changing the way we do business. We continue to strengthen the National Counterterrorism Center, which integrates 28 intelligence networks. In addition, we have created the National Security Branch at the FBI, expanding and connecting the bureau's intelligence, counterterrorism and counterintelligence capabilities. In 2005 only a few hundred employees at the FBI had access to the National Counterterrorism Center's secret-level online information sources. Now that figure is in the thousands. At the same time, we are weaving state and regional fusion centers, as well as more than 100 FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces, into a national network designed to ensure that actionable threat information gets where it needs to go in a timely fashion. Although sharing information between agencies and with allies is a demanding process, it is critical to countering transnational threats.

We are also more vigilant than ever concerning the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction in the hands of terrorists. We located the National Counterterrorism Center and the newly created National Counterproliferation Center together. We have worked closely with the FBI to establish a WMD Division to ensure that our domestic counterterrorism efforts include expertise on weapons of mass destruction. And we created a "WMD Innovation Fund" for intelligence community analysis, collection, and science and technology projects.

Of course, we continue to improve our efforts against other, more traditional challenges. We have enhanced our focus on North Korea and Iran -- in particular those nations' WMD programs. North Korea's recent long-range missile launch tested the intelligence community's integration, and we ensured that military and civilian intelligence agencies, in concert with our international partners, provided policymakers with the intelligence they needed to fashion an appropriate diplomatic response.

That's good, but we can do even better. We know this because we have already completed an intelligence community-wide "lessons learned" review to see how we can improve. We will not allow ourselves to become complacent; every success affords us an opportunity to prepare better for the next challenge, which will surely come.

In the decades leading up to Sept. 11, America's intelligence community was configured to focus on the major threats presented by the Cold War. We now live in a different era, challenged by a radically different set of threats that have

crossed our borders.

Both the Sept. 11 commission and the Robb-Silberman WMD commission accurately and eloquently detailed these new challenges. These commissions also offered a vision for 21st-century intelligence that we have fully embraced. We are "connecting the dots" both nationally and internationally, integrating counterterrorism analysis across the intelligence community, and removing bureaucratic barriers to information-sharing. This is a tall order. But the American people should understand that the components of the nation's intelligence community are working together in ways that were almost unimaginable before Sept. 11.

Through a new focus and better techniques, U.S. intelligence is collecting more information, analyzing it more rigorously and sharing it more broadly. Intelligence is not a panacea, but there are ways to ensure that the intelligence contribution to national security gets stronger, helping thwart our adversaries before they bring us more harm.

(Preceding items distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)